

REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 17 May 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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1. The armaments testing grounds in Bolevec (N50/LO4), a part of the Skoda Works, employs about 400 civilian technicians, engineers, mechanics, artificers and laborers. The area is surrounded by a wooden fence topped with barbed wire and is guarded during tests by a military unit from Pilsen. At other times it is guarded by a workers' militia of twelve men during the day and by eighteen men at night armed with pistols and submachine guns. Within the enclosure are armaments warehouses, employees' living quarters, large underground ammunition dumps, four firing tunnels, and workshops. Weapons and military vehicles are brought to the testing ground by means of a double-track railroad spur from the Orlík railroad station or by truck.
2. Tests are made of infantry weapons, light and heavy artillery, aircraft armament, tanks, mines, and armored vehicles. The tanks, which are driven to the training grounds under their own power, are tested twice a week in groups of 15 to 20. Tests are made of engines, tracks, armor and guns. After the tests they are returned to the factory for final inspection and painting. Each test is supervised by a military commission. Tests of guns destined for export to the USSR are witnessed by a group of Soviet specialists, who are billeted in Lochotin near Pilsen.
3. During 1950 the following new weapons were observed at the testing grounds:
 - a. An anti-aircraft gun with a very high rate of fire.
 - b. A new type of tank mounting a 75-mm gun with a very long barrel and an armor-plate apron which could be lowered over the tracks and driving wheels automatically from inside the tank. The first tests of this tank were made in March 1950.
 - c. The Skoda Partyzan tank, a medium tank similar in appearance to the T-34, but mounting an 85-mm gun and using an improved steering system and an interior similar to the British Challenger tank. A large group of Czech and Soviet officers attended the first tests in February 1950. Since then three groups of nine tanks have been tested.
 - d. An air-cooled infantry machine gun manufactured by Zbrojovka Brno. This gun has vertical cooling vanes and automatic fire dispersion.

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 Class. Changed To: TS S C
 Auth.: MR 70-2
 Date: 9 Aug 78 By [redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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- e. A long-range heavy caliber Skoda gun.
- f. Anti-tank rockets, believed to be improved German Panzerfausts.

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